

# STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 2

## CONFERENCE OF INTERSTATE AGENCIES

More than fifty representatives of twenty-two interstate agencies dealing with a broad variety of functions attended a Conference of Interstate Agencies in Chicago, February 2-3, sponsored by the Council of State Governments. Purpose of the meeting was to examine problems and procedures of interstate agencies and to review administrative experience of common interest.

The New York Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation was instrumental in organizing the meeting. Francis A. Pitkin, Chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, was Conference Chairman.

Attorney General Duke Dunbar of Colorado addressed the participants at a session on "Federal-State Relations and Interstate Agencies." He discussed the interest of the National Association of Attorneys General, of which he is President, in congressional consent procedure for interstate compacts. Mr. Dunbar noted that the Attorneys General have established a special committee to advise states regarding the need for consent to compacts. A manual on The Law and Use of Interstate Compacts, he said, is in preparation and will be given wide distribution to state officials.

Walter M. Phillips, Secretary of the Delaware River Basin Advisory Committee, described the new Delaware River Basin Compact. (See NATURAL RESOURCES, page 4.) Daniel B. Goldberg, General Solicitor of the Port of New York Authority, reported on the investigation of the port authority by a congressional committee and the indictment of three port officials for contempt of Congress. (See State Government News, September, 1960, page 4.) Mr. Goldberg urged compact agencies to inform the public on the use of compacts and their potentials. He further urged them to pool their knowledge and develop better ways to make compacts work.

Milton Musicus, Assistant Secretary to Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, described efforts in his state to provide organizational arrangements for integrating the state's participation in compacts into existing state organizational structure.

Professor Richard H. Leach of Duke University addressed the conference on administrative problems of interstate agencies, including, among others, those involved in retirement systems, personnel and recruitment of staff. Robert H. Solomons, III, Executive Secretary, Regional Advisory Council on Nuclear Energy, presided at a panel discussion on public relations. The need for two different types of public information was stressed. The panel indicated that a special problem was involved in informing the particular clientele served by an interstate agency, and also a need to inform the general public of program accomplishments.

The conference adopted a resolution authorizing the Chairman to appoint a committee of five to consult and report on the desirability of and the possible form of a continuing forum in which interstate agencies could share their experiences and contribute to the working out of common problems. Another resolution requested the Council of State Governments to feature news of intergovernmental agencies in its monthly publication, State Government News.

For other items on interstate agencies and programs see NATURAL RESOURCES, HIGHWAY SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING and METROPOLITAN PROBLEMS.

## REAPPORTIONMENT MEASURE APPROVED

The New Jersey legislature has approved and Governor Robert B. Meyner has signed a law providing for reapportionment of the legislature. Sixty seats in the Assembly, the lower house, will be reapportioned. Last reapportionment took place in 1941.

The State Supreme Court was scheduled to rule on a suit brought by the Asbury Park

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Press contesting the right of the legislature to delay action but did not file the opinion since the legislature had acted.

The law is modeled after that used by the United States House of Representatives. It will take three seats each from two populous counties and give one each to six counties. The seats are apportioned on the basis of population but each of the state's counties is entitled to at least one seat. The redistribution will be reflected in the primary on April 18 and the seats will be filled at the general election in November when an entire new assembly will be elected.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

**Kentucky Committee Appointed --** Governor Bert Combs of Kentucky has appointed a committee to study the problem of revising the state's 70-year old constitution. This action followed defeat on November 8 of a proposal for calling a limited constitutional convention. A previous official group, the Committee for Constitutional Revision, which spearheaded the effort for a convention call, went out of existence December 15.

An immediate problem is a Court of Appeals ruling that the constitution limits the salary of local officials to a maximum of \$7,200 a year and state officials to a maximum of \$12,000. The ruling became effective January 1, 1961.

**Wisconsin Report --** A Governor's Commission on Revision of the Wisconsin Constitution has submitted a report urging substantial revision of the state's constitution. It did not recommend the calling of a constitutional convention.

The report proposed that the procedure for amending the constitution be eased by permitting one session of the legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to submit proposed amendments to popular referendum. Present procedure requires approval by a simple majority at each of two legislative sessions and subsequent referral to the voters. Under the commission's proposal the old method would be optional.

Another proposal urged creation of a special commission, with an appropriation adequate for hiring of researchers, to examine major questions of constitutional revision. It listed a number of items for study. These included four-year terms for the Governor and other constitutional officers now serving two-year terms; a non-partisan commission to reapportion legislative and congressional districts; adoption of a procedure for selection of judges, combining appointive and elective features; reduction in the number of elective state officials; and provision for continuity of government in event of emergency. Other recommendations were limitation of the number of state agencies; a Governor's cabinet; and home rule for counties and cities.

#### TAXES

**Tax Rebate --** Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York has signed legislation granting a 10 per cent cut in the state personal income tax for 1960, due April 15. The law provides for the reduction of 10 per cent of the liability computed after statutory credits (\$10 for single taxpayers and \$25 for married taxpayers or heads of household) which were provided by legislation in 1959.

In anticipation of the percentage reduction, proposed by the Governor last summer, the State Tax Department designed new and abbreviated forms. The forms include blank lines to implement any legislation reducing the 1960 income tax. The department has informed taxpayers that the adjustment for the 10 per cent reduction is to be made on the blank spaces provided for this purpose.

**Tax Commission Report --** A Wisconsin Tax Study Commission has recommended to Governor Gaylord A. Nelson enactment of a 2 per cent sales tax and a boost in state income taxes to finance \$100 million in property tax relief. The proposal is included in a final report approved by the group by a vote of 18 to 1.

The income tax increase proposed would boost rates from a range of 1 to 8.5 per cent to a range of 2 to 10 and would eliminate the present surtax. The measures are expected to net \$135 million -- \$100 million for the property tax relief and \$35 million to help finance a state budget expected to rise above \$500 million by 1963.

#### MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

The Western Mental Health Training and Research Council has received a grant of more than \$150,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health. The grant will support a three-year program for expanding the training of staff at mental hospitals and schools for the mentally retarded in the western states. The council was set up in 1957 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

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Basic elements of the program will include: (1) regional conferences on techniques of in-service training, administration, and the therapeutic nature of staff-patient relationships; (2) interinstitutional visits of personnel to observe outstanding special programs in the region; and (3) a continuing series of periodic visits by teachers from university centers to each institution in the region to conduct workshops and training seminars.

Plans for participation in the program by individual schools and hospitals will be made by their respective superintendents and tied into long-range state plans for staff development.

#### HIGHWAY SAFETY

**Driver License Compact --** A driver license compact has been formulated to provide driver licensing authorities in each compacting state with complete records of its licensed drivers' convictions for traffic violations, both out-of-state and in-state.

Initiated by the Western Governors' Conference and the Western Interstate Committee on Highway Policy Problems, the compact was developed by the Council of State Governments with the cooperation of state motor vehicle officials. Other groups assisting in the development were the interstate compact committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and representatives of national organizations active in highway safety matters.

Both the national Governors' Conference and the Southern Governors' Conference have endorsed the principle of an interstate compact in the field of highway safety. Advance consent to this type of agreement among the states was granted by the United States Congress through the Beamer Resolution, Public Law 85-684.

The driver license compact provides that each member state will report convictions for traffic violations of out-of-state drivers to their respective home jurisdictions. The licensing authority in the home state, for purposes of suspension, revocation or limitation of a license to operate a motor vehicle, shall give the same effect to the conduct reported in a violation as it would if such conduct had occurred in the home state.

Adhering to a "one license" concept, the compact also assures that a member state will not issue a license to any person while he holds a license from another state unless he surrenders that license. Nor will a member state issue a license to any person while any previous license from another state is under suspension or revocation. Provision is made for an individual moving to another state while his license is under suspension or revocation to regain his driving privilege in the new state of residence.

Although given original impetus in the West, and approved in final form by the Committee on Highway Safety of the Western

Governors' Conference, the compact reflects the thinking of responsible state officials across the country and is intended to have nation-wide application. Any state may join. The compact is being offered for consideration by states at their current legislative sessions.

**Driver License Photographs --** Colorado and New Mexico have begun issuing driver licenses with the holder's photograph in color directly printed on the license. Colorado's more than 1,000,000 licensed drivers will be photographed at the rate of 350,000 a year. The state has a three-year license renewal program. A bill requiring color photographs on driver licenses was enacted by the 1959 legislature.

New Mexico is issuing green licenses with color photographs of the licensee. The program is being undertaken on a six-month trial basis. The form could be made permanent if a bill prepared by the Motor Vehicle Department for submission to the legislature is approved at its current session. The bill authorizes issuance of the new license and permits the department to increase the license fee by 25 cents. Motor Vehicle Commissioner Benny Sanchez reports that the new license is counterfeit-proof and serves as immediate and positive identification. The trial period will enable the department to report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the new procedure before the proposed bill comes up for final consideration.

**Suspension of Driving Privileges --** Ned J. Parsekian, Acting New Jersey Motor Vehicle Director, has announced that almost 3,000 Pennsylvania and Connecticut motorists who violated New Jersey's traffic laws had their driving privileges suspended for a month. The suspensions were effective in the drivers' home state as well as New Jersey. Mr. Parsekian reported that 205 New Jersey drivers were penalized correspondingly under the reciprocity plan with the neighboring states.

The motor vehicle reciprocity agreement by New Jersey with Connecticut became effective June 1, and with Pennsylvania, August 1. Mr. Parsekian said his state hopes to have similar agreements in the future with Delaware, Maryland, New York and Rhode Island.

**Pennsylvania Driver Exams --** In a six month period 42,000 persons with bad eyesight in Pennsylvania have been identified as a result of a program of physical examinations for driver license applicants. The applicants were required to have their vision corrected before receiving their licenses. In the same period 117,000 persons applied for learners' permits. One out of three of these was referred to an eye doctor or optometrist for visual correction. Purpose of the program is to bar physically unfit drivers from the road. (State Government News, March, 1960, page 4.)



Air Patrol -- David Herrick, Chief of the Iowa Highway Patrol, has reported a 68 per cent increase in the number of traffic law violators arrested as a result of spotting from the air by pilots of four highway patrol planes. A total of 2,917 were arrested during 1960 by use of this method.

The Maryland State Police have recently acquired a helicopter as an emergency vehicle. Colonel Carey Jarman, Maryland State Police Superintendent, described the aircraft as extremely valuable for searching difficult areas and observing movements on the ground.

Vehicle Inspection Program -- Inspection of Mississippi motor vehicles is expected to begin in April as a result of a law enacted by the 1960 legislature. A fee of \$1.25 will be charged for each inspection, which will cover brakes, lights, steering and alignment, and tires. Privately owned repair shops and garages, licensed by the State Department of Public Safety, will conduct the inspections.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

Delaware River Basin Compact -- Representatives of four states and two cities have approved draft legislation providing for an interstate-federal compact to develop and control the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. Meeting in Philadelphia on February 1, those participating were Governors Elbert N. Carvel, Delaware; Nelson A. Rockefeller, New York; David L. Lawrence, Pennsylvania; Mayor Robert Wagner, New York City; Mayor Richardson Dilworth, Philadelphia; and Salvatore A. Bontempo, Commissioner of Conservation and Economic Development, representing Governor Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey.

If the legislation is approved by the four states and Congressional consent is granted, it will be the first time the federal government has become a signatory with states in a regional compact. The proposal comes after years of studies, including a detailed survey by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The compact would set up a regional administrative agency governed by the Governors of the four states and an appointee of the President. The agency would have broad powers to formulate and carry out plans for developing resources for flood protection, water quality improvement, recreation, fish and wildlife improvement, hydroelectric power generation and soil conservation. As regards hydroelectric generation the proposed compact would limit sales of power to utilities or other wholesale users and rule out direct sales to consumers. Other powers of the agency would provide for allocation of waters among the four states and the cities and for "reasonable charges" for water or other services. The agency would have no taxing power but would be authorized to borrow money and issue revenue bonds.

Waterway Project -- Representatives of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee met in January to stimulate action on a Tennessee-Tombigbee Rivers waterway project, the subject of a tri-state compact among the states. Alabama and Mississippi approved the compact in 1958 and Tennessee in 1959.

Chief feature of the plan is a 253-mile long, nine-foot deep channel between Pickwick Lake on the Tennessee River and the Tombigbee River at Demopolis, Alabama. The canal would reduce by some 700 miles the distance between Tennessee River cities and the Gulf of Mexico. The project, now estimated to cost about \$277 million, was authorized by Congress in 1945, but funds have never been appropriated. In 1958 Congress granted consent for states to enter into an agreement for development of the area.

Compact Draft Completed -- A Joint California-Nevada Interstate Compact Commission has completed an initial draft of a compact to further intergovernmental cooperation on water resources between the states.

The compact covers equitable distribution and use of water, interstate development and water conservation within the major basins serving the two states in the western Nevada-California Sierra area. The draft designates a California-Nevada Compact Commission as the operating agency for the interstate agreement. It would be composed of five members from each of the two states appointed by the respective Governors and a representative of the federal government. The federal member would be ex officio chairman of the commission and would have no voting privileges.

The first draft provides for a gross annual diversion from all sources in the Lake Tahoe Basin of 34,000 acre feet. Of this amount, 23,000 would be allocated to California and 11,000 to Nevada. The final draft of the compact will be submitted to the state legislatures for approval.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New York Economic Report -- A New York Temporary State Commission on Economic Expansion, in a report to Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, has urged consideration of a statewide sales tax -- the proceeds to be distributed mainly to local governments to maintain and expand public services.

The proposal was one of twenty-seven recommendations to promote economic expansion and to provide new employment opportunities in the state. The tax was suggested as an alternative to higher state income and property taxes if and when a need for larger tax revenue should arise.

Other recommendations in the report dealt with urban renewal, building codes, assessment, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, tourism, rail transportation, hydroelectric power, expansion of the Office for Local Government and the

Department of Commerce, and establishment of a permanent Council of Economic Advisors.

**Recommended Research Projects** -- The Kentucky Economic Development Commission has recommended five special research projects keyed to development of the state's resources. It also has initiated establishment of a state-wide advisory Economic Development Council. Funds for the research projects will come from a \$200,000 appropriation passed by the 1960 legislature for special industrial and agricultural research.

The projects deal with a coal research program, laboratory testing of theoretical methods of nuclear treating of coal for chemical use, the state's handcraft market potential, recovery and utilization of tobacco waste products, and a pilot sheep evaluation station at the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture.

**Florida Barge Canal** -- Construction of a 195-mile barge canal in Florida is being urged by the state's new administration. The canal would connect the Atlantic Ocean near Jacksonville and the Gulf of Mexico about a hundred miles north of Tampa Bay. It would use the St. Johns River for part of its length. Construction costs are estimated at \$200 million for a twelve-foot channel. Several million dollars were spent on the project when it was first proposed in the mid-1930's.

#### SCHOOL DECISION

The Vermont Supreme Court has affirmed a lower court decree declaring that payment of public tax funds as tuition to parochial schools violates the United States Constitution.

The lower court had ruled the doctrine of separation of church and state was abridged by payment of tuition fees to two schools in Burlington. Several school districts in the state maintain no public high schools. The communities pay tuition to neighboring schools, several of them sectarian.

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION

A special investigating committee of the South Carolina legislature has submitted a report with draft legislation to eliminate mistakes, misstatements and outright fraud from the sale of stocks and bonds. Another legislative committee report is scheduled on consumer financing. The latter will deal with interest rates, insurance fees and carrying charges involved in credit purchases, bank and small loans operations and all other businesses which loan money or sell on the installment plan.

#### METROPOLITAN PROBLEMS

**Washington, D.C. Transit Compact** -- Governors J. Millard Tawes of Maryland and J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., of Virginia, and Robert E. McLaughlin, President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, have signed the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact. This action, taken in December, marks the first agreement between the district and its neighboring states.

The compact provides for creation of a Washington Area Transit Commission which will regulate existing privately owned transit service for the entire metropolitan area. The commission will have one representative from each of the three governments.

Formation of the new agency results from the work of a Tri-State Commission appointed to study the area's transportation problems. The compact was ratified by Virginia in 1958 and by Maryland in 1959. Congress granted consent in 1960. The action taken consolidated regulatory functions conducted by four separate commissions.

**Annexation Law Upheld** -- A recent unanimous North Carolina State Supreme Court decision has upheld a 1959 law providing a general and liberalized procedure for cities with population of 5,000 or more to annex adjacent areas. Before annexation takes place certain findings of fact, subject to court review, must be made by a city as to the character of the areas to be annexed, including their population density. In addition the city must agree to furnish city utilities and services -- fire and police protection -- to the newly annexed areas within a specified time. Superior Court judges are authorized to pass upon application of the law by the municipalities without sending the matter to a jury.

The Supreme Court decision said that sound urban development is essential to the continued economic development of the state, and that municipal boundaries should be extended in accordance with legislative standards applicable throughout the state.

**New England Railroad Conference** -- Governors from six New England states conferred February 6 on financial aid to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Present at the meeting were Governors Wesley Powell of New Hampshire, Chairman of the meeting; John N. Dempsey, Connecticut; F. Ray Keyser, Jr., Vermont; John A. Notte, Jr., Rhode Island; John H. Reed, Maine; and John A. Volpe, Massachusetts. The Governors suggested that any financial assistance for the railroad be accompanied by appropriate supervision. They also recommended repeal of the federal excise tax on railroads and Interstate Commerce Commission authority to help distressed railroads.

The Governors agreed to meet at least every two months in conferences of a general nature.

#### NEW COURT PROCEDURE

The Washington State Supreme Court has established a new trial practice regarding confessions and their admissibility in evidence. Under the new rule, the judge in any criminal case in which a confession is to be offered in evidence must hold a hearing before the trial to decide whether the confession was voluntary and therefore admissible. The accused may testify at the hearing or not, as he chooses.

After the pretrial hearing the judge will write out his conclusions as to whether the confession was voluntary and his reasons for reaching the decision. The judge's conclusions will not be disclosed at the trial but will constitute a record for future reference if a convicted man later demands release from his sentence on the grounds that the confession that helped convict him was wrongfully obtained.

Although intended to provide an antidote to later challenges of confessions, the new practice is also expected to save the state money. Juries will be called to duty only after the confession question is settled. Under the old procedure, jurors collecting \$10 a day would remain behind locked doors while lawyers and the judge outside wrangled for perhaps two or three days over the admissibility of a confession.

#### VOTE COUNTING MACHINE

A California Commission on Voting Machines and Vote Tabulating Devices has approved by a 2-1 vote use of an electronic vote counting system.

The system was developed for the County of Los Angeles at a cost of \$900,000. It employs an electronic device that tabulates fluorescent marked paper ballots a precinct at a time. Developed as a means of speeding up vote counting in the county's 12,000 precincts, the system is reported capable of tabulating all the county's votes in six hours if a sufficient number of machines are used.

Assistant Attorney General Howard Jewel, representing Attorney General Stanley Mosk, a regular commission member, voted against approval. He said that information developed in the Attorney General's office indicated the machine is fine as far as it goes, but that the office was not satisfied with the machine's treatment of ballots which are unread or untabulated for one reason or another.

Voting for the proposal were Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan, the state's chief election officer, and Motor Vehicle Director Robert I. McCarthy, representing Governor

Edmund G. Brown. Vote counting machines must have the commission's approval before they can be used in the state. The commission action in no way blocks future approval of other ballot counting devices or voting machines.

#### REORGANIZATION PLAN

Governor Wesley Powell of New Hampshire has presented a reorganization plan to the legislature. It involves mergers and consolidations that would reduce the state's sixty-three agencies to twenty unified departments.

Highlight of the plan is the creation of three new agencies -- a Department of Safety, a Department of Health and Welfare and a Department of Resources and Economic Development.

The new safety agency would merge the State Police, Motor Vehicle Department, State Fire Marshal's office, Passenger Tramway Safety Board and the Public Utilities Commission's division which supervises navigation, and boat and motor carrier registrations. The new health and welfare agency would merge the Health Department, Welfare Department, State Hospital, and other state institutions. A Department of Resources and Economic Development would merge the Planning and Development Commission, Forestry and Recreation Commission, Fish and Game Commission and the Water Resources Board.

#### PERSONNEL

A Subcommittee on Governmental Efficiency of the Montana Legislative Council has submitted a report advocating creation of a State Personnel Department. It would have jurisdiction over some 90 per cent of state employees. The subcommittee states that the purpose is to ensure competent employees, promote state efficiency through an orderly personnel classification system and provide uniform pay scales. A personnel director appointed by the Governor would head the department. Montana adopted a civil service law in 1953 but no appropriations were made to carry out provisions of the legislation.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES, PROCEDURES

Reapportionment Assistance -- The Oregon Legislative Counsel has prepared a kit to assist the state's lawmakers in their decennial task of reapportioning the legislature. The state constitution requires the legislature at the session next following a federal census to reapportion the Senate and the House of Representatives according to population. The kit contains a history and analysis of past reapportionments, key questions and answers relative to reapportionment and constitutional provisions regarding its execution. It includes data



and maps on present apportionment, districts, population, voter registration and ratios of legislative representation to population. Four worksheet maps showing county boundaries and populations are appended to enable legislators to work out possible reapportionment lines.

**Recommend Longer Senate Terms --** A Georgia Senate Committee has recommended lengthening the state senatorial term from two to four years, possibly on a staggered basis.

The committee, appointed to develop means of strengthening the state's upper house, underlined the basic problem by observing: "We find that Georgia is the only state in the Union which, by statute, prohibits continuity in the Office of State Senator." All of Georgia's fifty-four senatorial districts but one -- Fulton County, which includes most of Atlanta -- are multi-county districts, and under the existing statutory rotation system for electing state senators, each senator is a "Lame Duck" when he first takes office. The committee rejected measures to eliminate the rotation system or to make major changes in existing districts.

**House Procedures Changed --** West Virginia's House of Delegates adopted numerous procedural changes as the 1961 session opened. More than half of the House members are newly elected.

One change prohibits introduction of guests of members -- a practice which has been time-consuming in the past. Guests are now also banned from the House floor, a step taken by the Senate in the previous session.

Lobbying on the House floor during a session, moreover, is barred, and violation of this rule by a legislator could lead to his expulsion for the session. Another change provides that "no remarks of members, speeches, newspaper editorials and articles or other material shall be printed in the daily Journal." Any such material may be included, with consent of the House, only in the appendix to the Journal at the end of the session. The House also tightened up long distance telephone privileges of its members.

**Idaho Handbook --** A new handbook on legislative procedures has been published by the Bureau of Public Affairs Research, University of Idaho, and distributed to members of the Idaho legislature.

The manual was prepared by Robert J. Huckshorn, Associate Director of the Bureau; Edward S. Middlemist, Secretary of the Senate in 1959; and Senator C. A. Bottolfson, former Governor and expert in parliamentary procedure. Senator Bottolfson served six terms as Chief Clerk of the Idaho House and was at one time Sergeant-At-Arms of the United States Senate.

The authors said they had received many requests for the work, especially from newly

elected legislators. In a foreword to the 65-page handbook, Governor Robert E. Smylie said "it is hoped that the publication of this work may create interest in reformation of the processes of producing legislation."

**Oregon Legislative Manual --** The Oregon Legislative Counsel Committee has published a new legislative manual, "A Handbook for the Oregon Legislator." The booklet, of 79 pages, outlines a legislator's experience from the time of election. It includes a description of his living needs at the capitol and how they are provided for, a guide to the capitol area, and a summary of House organization. Most of the manual is devoted to legislative processes, procedures and functions -- including an analysis of kinds of legislative measures, the parts of a bill and the steps involved in enactment of a law. Other sections cover legislative assistance and services; the legislator's rights, privileges and activities as an individual; and sample questions and answers on parliamentary practices.

**Citizens Advisory Commission --** A sixty-seven member California Citizens Legislative Advisory Commission has published a Second Progress Report. It summarizes the recommendations for legislative improvements developed by the commission since its creation in 1956. These have dealt with legislative sessions, terms of office, compensation, conflicts of interest, assistance for individual legislators, committees and legislative aids and services. Many of the commission's suggestions have been put into effect -- by constitutional amendment approved by the voters or statutory or procedural changes by the legislature. Max Eddy Utt, a Los Angeles attorney, is chairman of the commission, and Professor Ernest A. Engelbert of the University of California is its secretary.

#### RAISE GOVERNOR'S SALARY

The Washington legislature on the day before Governor Albert D. Rosellini's second inauguration acted to raise the Governor's salary for the current four-year term from \$15,000 to \$22,500 a year. Both houses of the legislature, by more than the two-thirds vote necessary, overrode the Governor's veto of a section of a 1959 bill providing the increase.

Other sections of the bill -- not vetoed -- provided salary raises for all other state elective officials.

In Washington any bill which has been vetoed by the Governor and not voted upon again by the legislature at the same session may become law in a succeeding session, provided two-thirds of the members present in both houses pass the bill over the Governor's veto.

The legislative action would not have applied to the Governor's current term if

taken after his inauguration, as the state constitution prohibits an increase in an elective official's salary during the term of office for which the holder is elected.

#### WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

A White House Conference on Aging was held in Washington D. C., January 9-12, to formulate programs and recommend courses of action in dealing with problems faced by the growing number of older citizens. More than 2,500 representatives of all levels of government and private organizations participated.

The conference was divided into sections for consideration of twenty subject matters, including, among others, employment and retirement, health and medical care, social services, housing and education. Each section consolidated the results of its deliberations in a policy statement with recommendations.

A section on "Population Trends: Social and Economic Implications" adopted a Senior Citizen's Charter, listing rights and obligations of senior citizens. It was held that rights include continued usefulness, employment based on merit, a share of the community's recreational, educational and medical resources, and suitable housing. Under "obligations" the aging were urged to remain active and independent, to learn and apply principles of physical and mental health, and to contribute their experience and knowledge to family and community.

A spirited discussion was centered on the question of coverage of medical care under Social Security. Its formal consideration was reserved for a Section on Income Maintenance. The section concluded that "the problem of furnishing an adequate level of

high quality health care for the aged is so large and so complex that its solution will require the use of a variety of approaches, including individual and family resources, voluntary health insurance, industrial programs, social security, public assistance, and a variety of other programs." In addition to full use of current opportunities for insurance and medical care, the majority, by vote of 170 to 99, declared "that the social security mechanism should be the basic means of financing health care for the aged." A minority said that such legislation would interfere with the physician-patient relationship; that existing programs could answer all the needs; and that the social security program should provide for cash benefits and not for services of various kinds.

A Section on State Organization recommended establishment of a permanent unit (office, commission or agency) on aging in each state to provide statewide leadership in programs for the aging. Functions would include providing a mechanism by which governmental and nongovernmental agencies could coordinate plans and activities for the aging; creation of public understanding of the needs and potentials of older people; stimulation of research and training and local organization; and recommendations for legislative and administrative action. Guidelines regarding structure stressed the need for establishment of the unit by the legislature as an official, independent part of state government, with wide citizen and interdepartmental representation and adequate, qualified staff and budget. The section also urged federal technical assistance, and consideration of grants-in-aid to the states to promote and expand services to the aged.

A more extensive summary of the conference will be presented in the Spring Issue of State Government.



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